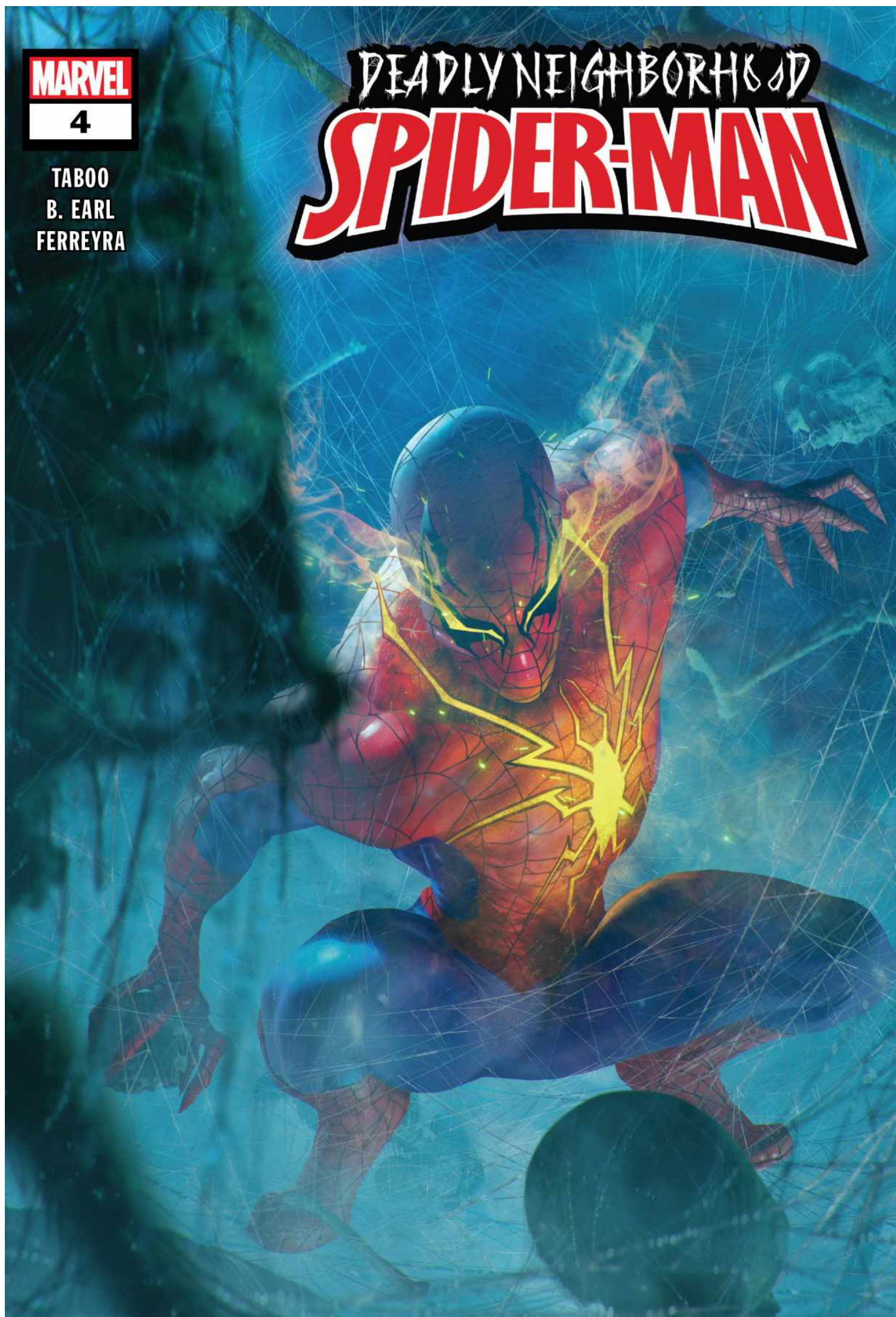


MARVEL

4

TABOO
B. EARL
FERREYRA

DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD **SPIDER-MAN**



MARVEL REMEMBERS



CARLOS PACHECO 1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK

PETER PARKER HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN

Peter Parker has traveled to sunny L.A. to conduct experiments with scientist **CRYSTAL CATAWNEE**. But awful nightmares began afflicting Peter after he came into contact with an ancient **MAGICAL ROCK**. At first, the visions, filled with strange monsters, mazes, and a flame-eyed version of Spidey, seemed like nothing more than bad dreams—until a monstrous **DEMON BEAR** crashed through the barrier between dimensions to deliver a message: Spidey has three days to find a mysterious Maze and defeat the Demon Bear within. If Spidey loses, the nightmare realm will overrun the real world! After bonding to the rock, Peter's been confronted by the Demon Bear again—only this time, Spidey's using his new powers to even the odds!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
CRYSTAL ECHOHAWK
& BIRD RUNNINGWATER

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY

SOMETIME,
SOMEPLACE.

Once, there were five wolves, all brothers. They traveled together, and when they hunted, they would share their food with Coyote.

One time when Coyote took the food, he noticed the two younger wolves looking up at the sky. It made him curious.

Coyote asked, "What are you looking at?" At first, the two younger wolves hesitated.

But then the two wolves decided to tell Coyote they saw something up in the sky. Coyote said, "I can show you how to get up there, no problem."

Coyote took his bow and fired arrow after arrow. Threaded together, each arrow pierced a star, and together they formed a chain.

Coyote led the way, as the five wolves followed. In the distance, there were two large grizzly bears.

Coyote didn't trust the bears, so he stayed behind.

But the wolves liked the grizzlies and decided to go.

Coyote looked at the seven of them and said to himself:

This became the Big Dipper.

Coyote continued shooting his arrows, which are the stars in the constellations we know today.

"They look good together, and when people stare at the sky, they will say..."



"You are a storyteller too, Crystal, just like Coyote."

"Stories can heal, but they also can harm."

"There is great power in our stories and we must hold them sacred."

"Our stories are in the stars, just as they are here on the Earth."

"Every rock and every tree holds a story. Just as every crashing wave connects each of our lands from shore to shore."

"But when our lands fall ill, our stories become sick."

"Just as the water connects land to sea, so do our stories connect mind to body."

"Remember this, Crystal."

"Follow the stars to the stories."



Powered by **crows** is a new one. I can feel them twisting and turning inside.

I let the crows guide me as they flow around and throughout.

I'm running out of clever pop-culture bear names, Paddington!

I wonder if **Demon Bear** has some connection to the bear I stopped on the side of the road?

If there is, maybe **everything** in life is related like a **story**... with foreshadowing, irony, and all the other literary devices I forgot from English 101.

Take that, Fozzie!

Eat crow!

I'm starting to believe these are all **symbols** of my subconscious... and I better start figuring them out quickly. Otherwise, I'm gonna be stuck here forever!

Crystal!
How the heck did you get here?







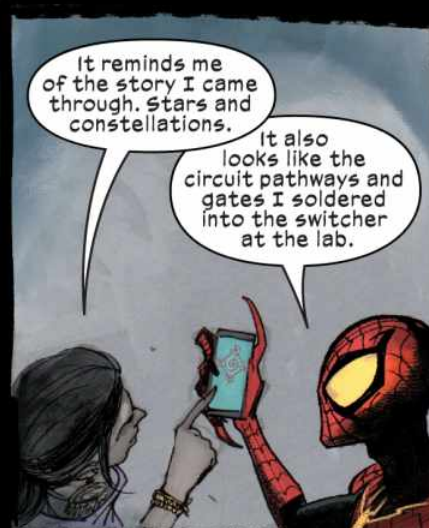
I need
to show you
something that
happened
in your
bathroom.

I think I'll take a pass on seeing anything you did in my bathroom.



I fell into
some nightmare
trance and
drew *this*.

Looks like circuit pathways.



It reminds me of the story I came through. Stars and constellations.

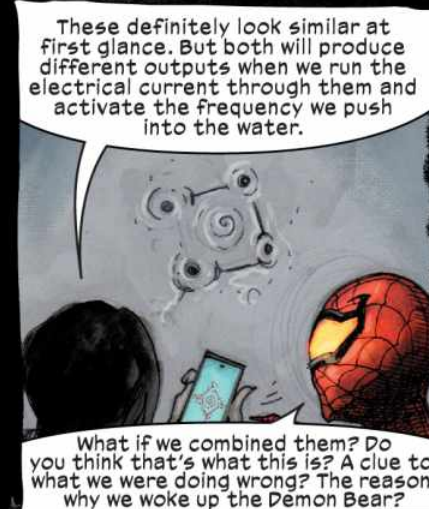
It also looks like the circuit pathways and gates I soldered into the switcher at the lab.



Can you draw the circuit pathways you put into the switcher?



I can *try*.
But remembering
here is hard. Like
trying to recall
a dream.



These definitely look similar at first glance. But both will produce different outputs when we run the electrical current through them and activate the frequency we push into the water.

What if we combined them? Do you think that's what this is? A clue to what we were doing wrong? The reason why we woke up the Demon Bear?



Grrwwaarr! Grrrrwaarrrr!



Incredible.
It's right there.
The Big Dipper. The
five wolves and
two bears.

Wolves?
Bears?



I'll tell you the story another time. But right now, we need to keep going. It's how I got here...through the stars and the Big Dipper. We need to find it again here and go through the Dipper.

It's a map!
The map to
the *Maze*.

Exactly.



Peeeeeeettttterrerrrrrrrr.

What was...?

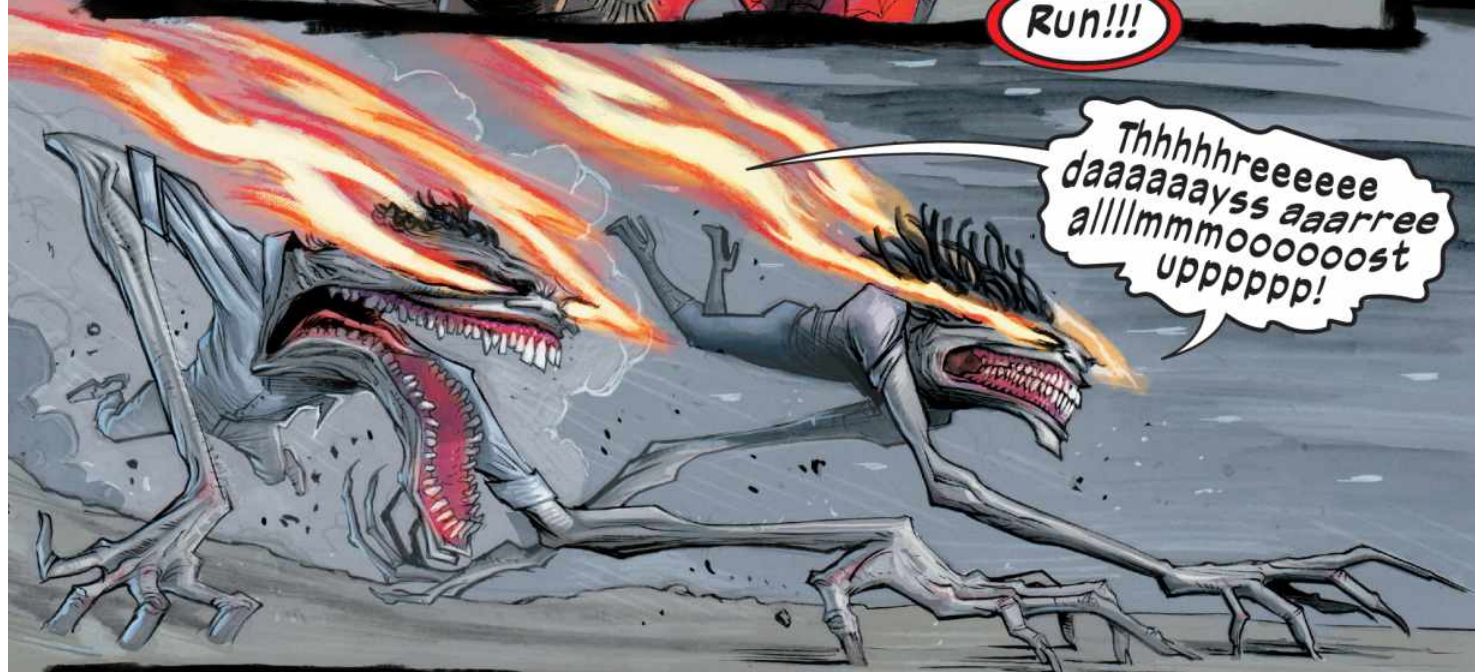


Peeeeeeettterrrrrr!!!



Looks like they woke up!

Run!!!



Thhhhhreeeeee
daaaaaayss aaarree
allllmmooooost
upppppp!



There's a story about a devil's tower...

This isn't a time for stories, Crystal!



A full-page comic book illustration of Spider-Man in his red and blue suit, flying through a chaotic, fiery environment. He is surrounded by intense orange and yellow flames and swirling white smoke or energy. In the background, dark, jagged structures resembling a city skyline are visible against a bright red sky. Spider-Man has a determined expression, looking forward. The overall style is dynamic and dramatic, with a strong emphasis on fire and movement.

But we flew
too close to
the sun... And I
got us sucked
into this Maze.

A Maze of Stories
and Dreams, sick
from *our* sickness.
Maybe it's what
we're supposed to
heal--this crazy
nightmare city.

And I'm the one
meant to bring
Crystal here--

--the delivery
system for the
good medicine.

The City.

Still good?

I ain't afraid of no ghosts...or dream monsters or whatever.

The pinnacle of humankind's so-called progress...all jammed into concrete boxes glued to plastic machines, spitting out regurgitated slop copied from watered-down visions, activated by fear-driven executioners.

You see that?

Okay. Now it's getting real.

Where are the dream warriors when you need them?

Take this shield.

Captain Crystal?

Or Captain Catawnee?

Either way, something wicked this way comes!











Through the
stone we
go... Birth,
life, death...
over and
over again.

The
patterns keep
repeating
with each
iteration.

They are
woven into
every story
and every
equation.

Math meets
art, philosophy
creates science,
society breeds
culture.

The dreams
mix with
realities as
I square
the circle.

I see every
version of
myself in every
instance across
every universe
all at once.

Everything

and nothing



As I stare into its
burning eyes, I see what
I could have become if
I had let the sickness
consume me.

I see what would
have happened if I had
let the stories fill me
with all that rage and
violence, pushing me to
"kill 'em all and let god
sort 'em out."

Leave
my friend
alone!

Somewhere, I hear
the familiar voice
of my pal Bird saying,
"Stories can heal,
but stories can
also harm."

And this
story stone
is ready to lay
down a *serious*
burning!

TO BE
CONCLUDED!

NEXT:
DEADLY NEIGHBORHOOD OF
SPIDER-MAN

#3

